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**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE - EXAMINING GROUP 2800**

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PATENT

I hereby certify that on the date specified below, this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date

August 14, 2003

24. M. D.

Tamra Miller

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/652,994 Confirmation No. : 4014
Applicant : Vishnu K. Agarwal Attorney Docket No.: 501082.02 (98-0616.01)
Filed : August 31, 2000 Customer No. : 27,076
Art Unit : 2815
Examiner : Jesse A. Fenty
Title : DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING AGAINST OXIDATION OF A CONDUCTIVE LAYER IN SAID DEVICE

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Sir:

Applicant acknowledge receipt of the Office Action dated July 30, 2003.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.